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"KNOW YE, O PRINCE, THAT KING CONAN BEAT BACK THE INVADERS FROM THE WALLS OF TARANTIA. YET, THE TASTE OF VICTORY WAS BITTER AS HE BEHELD..."

THE RAVAGED LAND

...FROM THE NEMEDIAN CHRONICLES

TELL US, HADRATHUS, WHAT YOU SEE IN THE HEART OF AHRIMAN CONCERNING OUR SON.

PRINCE CONN IS IN PURSUIT OF THE TRAITOR CRASSUS, WHO HAS THE PRINCESS RADEGUND HOSTAGE, AND NOW RIDES FOR THE BORDER OF ARGOS.

DON KRAAR WRITER • JUDITH HUNT PENCILER • ART NICHOLS INKER • JANICE CHIANG LETTERER • GEORGE ROUSOS COLORIST • LARRY HAMA EDITOR • JIM SHOOTER EDITOR IN CHIEF

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BEFORE THE WALLS OF TARANTIA, THE AQUILONIANS PERFORM THE FINAL HONORS FOR THE DEAD...

WE'VE PAID DEARLY FOR THIS VICTORY. I VOW OUR ENEMIES WILL PAY DEARLY IN DEFEAT.

MY HUSBAND, I BEG YOU NOT TO FORGET YOUR PLEDGE TO FIND OUR TRUE SECOND SON.

MY QUEEN, IF THE REAL TAURUS LIVES, YOU MAY DEPEND ON THE KING AND HIS MEN TO FIND HIM.

I KNEW IN MY HEART ZELATA SPOKE THE TRUTH WHEN SHE SAID THE BOY WAS NOT OUR OWN.

WAIT...

...LET ME TAKE ONE LAST LOOK.

COURAGE...

HE WAS NEVER HAPPY WITH US. I PRAY TO MITRA THAT HE FINDS CONTENTMENT IN THE NEXT WORLD.

I REARED HIM AS MY OWN. HOW COULD I NOT FEEL A SENSE OF LOSS AT HIS PASSING?

SAVE YOUR TEARS, O QUEEN. YOU MAY YET HAVE CAUSE TO SHED THEM.

ZELATA, HAVE THE GODS LIFTED ANOTHER VEIL TO REVEAL MORE OF THE FUTURE TO US?

ONLY CRASSUS CAN REVEAL THE WHEREABOUTS OF YOUR TRUE SON, BUT THE DUTY AND HONOR OF RESCUING THE PRINCESS RADEGUND DOES NOT BELONG TO YOUR SON.

MORE THAN THIS I CANNOT SAY. MY LIPS ARE SEALED BY THE GODS.

LET THE FLAMES CONSUME THIS UNFORTUNATE ONE'S BODY AND YOUR GRIEF AS WELL, YOUR MAJESTIES.

BY THE GODS, I SWEAR TO FIND OUR TRUE SON, ZENOBIA.

THEN I BEG YOU TO DO IT SWIFTLY BEFORE MY HEART BREAKS.

THE FIRST LIGHT OF DAY FINDS PRINCE CONN IN PURSUIT OF HIS KIDNAPPED SISTER...

AT THIS PACE, WE'LL NEED FRESH MOUNTS BY NOON, RUFIO.

AYE, UNLESS OUR SCOUT BRINGS GOOD NEWS FOR US.

HALT--OUR SCOUT IS RETURNING. PRAY TO MITRA HE HAS FOUND THE PRINCESS.

MY PRINCE, CRASSUS AND HIS RETINUE HAVE BEEN CAPTURED BY ARGOSSEAN CAVALRY AND ARE BEING DELIVERED TO KING XANTAUS AT HIS CAMP ON THE ALIMANE RIVER.

THEN THAT MEANS WE ARE BEHIND ENEMY LINES AND THE LINES COULD CHANGE IN A MATTER OF HOURS.

AYE, MY FRIEND. THAT GIVES US LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO WAIT 'TIL AFTER NIGHTFALL TO RECONNOITER THE ENEMY CAMP.

THAT NIGHT ON THE ALIMANE RIVER...

XANTALUS HAS ESTABLISHED HIS COMMAND POST IN ORDER TO REGROUP.

IT SHOULDN'T BE HARD TO FIND THE PRINCESS THERE.

REMEMBER, RUFIO, MOVE CAREFULLY, VERY CAREFULLY...

YOU MAY TELL QUEEN LEORA THAT I WILL MEET WITH HER AT THE TIME AND PLACE PROPOSED TO REFORGE OUR ALLIANCE.

THE QUEEN OF OPHIR WILL KNOW YOUR ANSWER, KING XANTALUS.

AS FOR YOU, YOU MISERABLE STYGIAN VULTURE...

...I'M GOING TO SEE HOW LONG YOU CAN ENTERTAIN US UNDER SLOW TORTURE.

WAIT, XANTALUS...

SPEAK QUICKLY, SORCEROR.

YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO KILL ME BEFORE I DIVULGE THE WEAPON THAT WILL BE KING CONAN'S FINAL UNDOING.

THE PRINCESS RADEGUND HAS TOLD YOU THAT I SLEW HER BROTHER. IN TRUTH I SLEW AN EVIL IMP I SUBSTITUTED FOR HER REAL BROTHER AT BIRTH.

THE MOST PRECIOUS HOSTAGE I HAVE HAS NOT BEEN THE FAIR PRINCESS, BUT HER REAL BROTHER, REARED IN A DISTANT LAND AND UNAWARE OF HIS PARENTAGE.

KILL ME NOW, XANTAUS, AND YOU WILL NEVER POSSESS THIS MOST SUBLIME WEAPON OF ALL.

IF THIS IS TRUE, THEN YOU HAVE SAVED YOUR SKIN, CRASSUS, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING.

IN THE MEANTIME, YOU WILL BE TAKEN TO MESSANTIA BY AN ARMED GUARD.

AND ON THE FAR BANK...

...AND THEY WILL TAKE THEM TO MESSANTIA IN THE MORNING.

AND CRASSUS CONFIRMED ZELATA'S REVELATION CONCERNING YOUR BROTHER.

THEN WE WILL HAVE TO RESCUE RADEGUND TOMORROW IF WE EVER HOPE TO RESCUE HER.

AYE, IF THE GODS PERMIT.

THEY WILL NOT PERMIT...

IT IS NOT YOUR DESTINY TO RESCUE THE PRINCESS RADEGUND.

ZELATA!

WHAT DID YOU SEE IN THE WATER, CONN?

JUST THE REFLECTION OF THE MOON, MY FRIEND.

AND NEAR AN INN ON THE ROAD TO ZINGARA, WHERE IT INTERSECTS WITH THE ROAD TO ARGOS, ANOTHER TRAVELER SEEKS HIS DESTINY, A PROUD YOUNG AESIR CALLED OERYCK...

I'LL NEED A FRESH MOUNT IF I'M TO RIDE CLEAR OF THE SHADOW OF KING CONAN, MY FATHER'S SLAYER.

INNKEEPER, I NEED A FRESH HORSE AND I'M WILLING TO PAY FOR IT.

THEN YOU'D BETTER BE ABLE TO PAY WELL IF YOU INTERRUPT MY MIDDAY MEAL.

I'LL PAY YOU WELL ENOUGH FOR WHATEVER YOU HAVE TO SELL.

THE COLOR OF GOLD IS MORE PERSUASIVE THAN YOUR FINE WORDS, BARBARIAN.

HERE, WHAT WILL THAT BUY?

THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!

BOY, FETCH THE ROAN STALLION.

A STALLION?

AYE, A STRONG YOUNG ONE.

YOU SEE? STRONG AND YOUNG...

AYE, AND HALF WILD FROM THE LOOK OF HIM. BUT, HE'LL HAVE TO DO.

WHERE ARE YOU BOUND FOR, MY YOUNG FRIEND?

FOR ZINGARA AND THE LANDS BEYOND.

BY YMIR, WHAT WITCHCRAFT IS THIS?

YOUR DESTINY LIES ON THE ROAD TO ARGOS.

WE'LL NEED FRESH HORSES IF WE ARE TO REACH THE BORDER OF ARGOS BY NIGHTFALL.

AYE, AND FOOD IN OUR BELLIES AS WELL.

TELL ME, YOUN[illegible] AESIR, ARE YO[illegible]

WHAT [illegible] THAT [illegible] STRANGER

[illegible] AND [illegible] I BUT SAY THE W[illegible]

N TRUTH I [illegible] HEAR THE KING OF [illegible] NO LOVE

[illegible] AND I [illegible] STRANGER

IF YOU ARE RUNNING HELP A LADY IN NEED, I STAND READY AND WILLING TO HELP YOU.

AYE, BUT YOU MUSTN'T RISK YOUR LIFE AGAINST SUCH ODDS.

FAREWELL [illegible]

GOOD FORTUNE [illegible]

WAIT, THAT'S THE ROAD TO ARGOS I THOUGHT YOU WERE BOUND FOR ZINGARA?

SO DID I.

WITH A HAVOC-DARK[illegible] AWAY A MEA, THE ARGOSEAN LANCERS ARE FOUND ON THE ROAD TO ARGOS

MY FAMILY WILL NEVER REST UNTIL THEY RESCUE ME CRASSUS, AND HAVE THEIR REVENGE ON YOU

LESS THAN AN HOUR LATER.

INNKEEPER, DID A DETACHMENT OF ARGOSEAN CAVALRY PASS THIS WAY WITH A STYGIAN AND A YOUNG GIRL?

AYE THEY CHANGED HORSES AND ROTE FOR THE BORDER OF ARGOS.

ON THE ROAD TO ARGOS

STAND ASIDE, BARBARIAN.

THEN YIELD THE GIRL YOU HAVE TAKEN PRISONER AND WE WILL HAVE NO QUARREL

DON'T BANDY WORDS WITH HIM. SLAY HIM.

GET YOU GONE, BOY.

PLEASE STAND ASIDE, BARBARIAN.

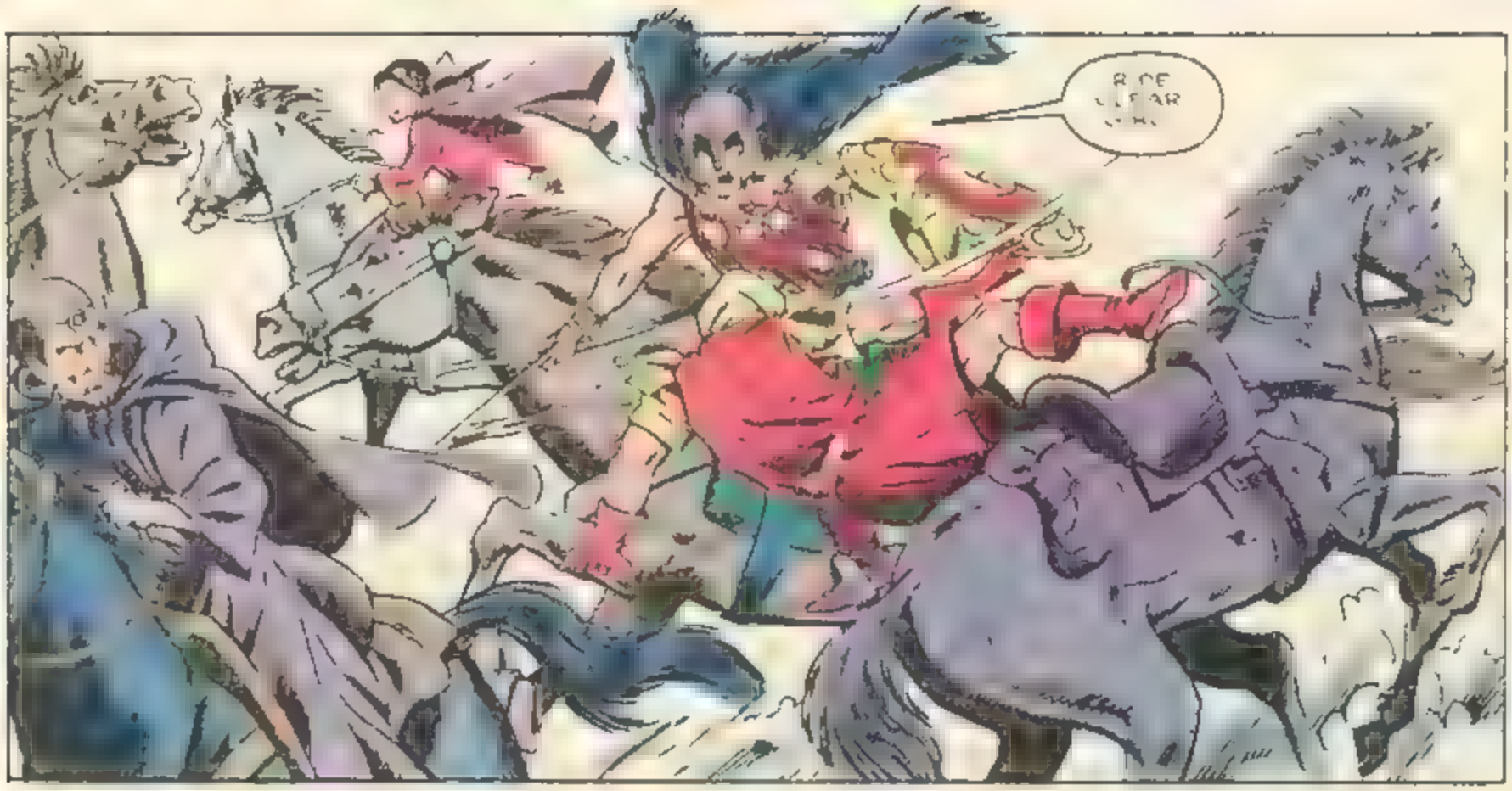
NO. THE DIE IS CAST

IT WAS THE MOMENT I SAW YOU

MAKE PEACE WITH YMIR, NORTHMAN, WE ARE EIGHT TO YOUR ONE.

THAT'S A PITY

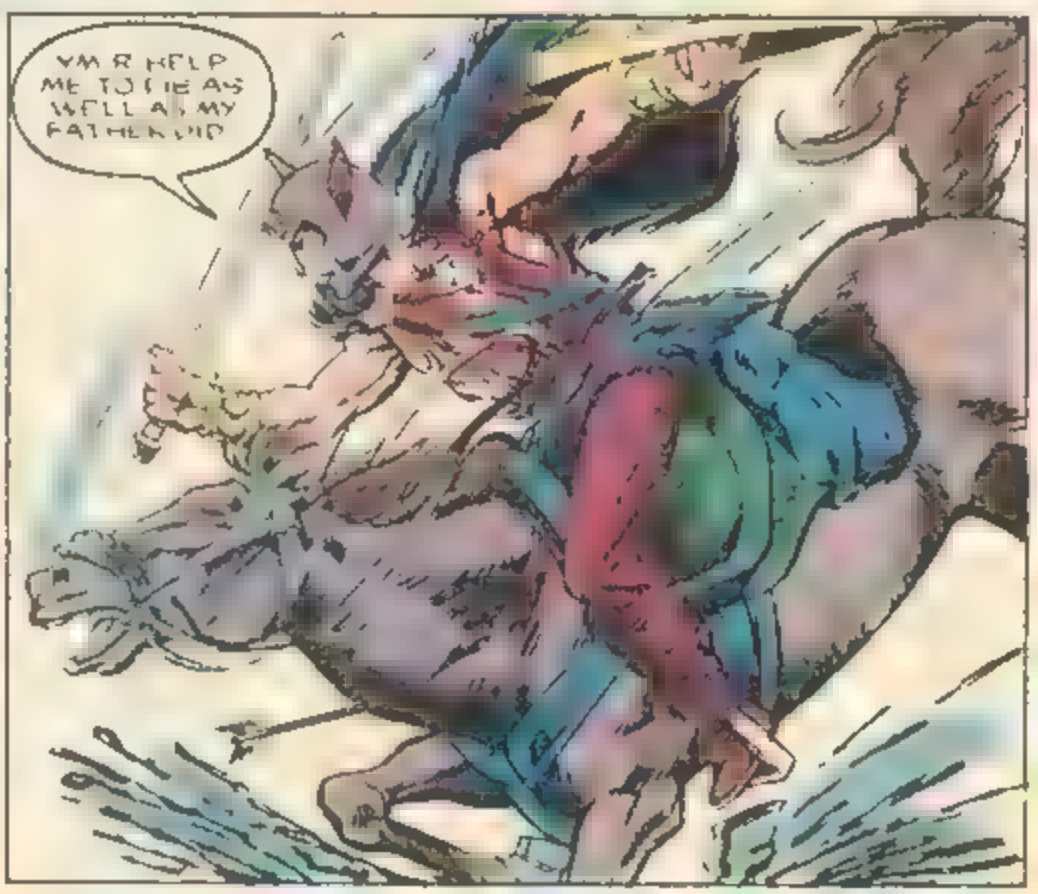
A PITY YOU DIDN'T BRING MORE MEN.


ROE
CLEAR

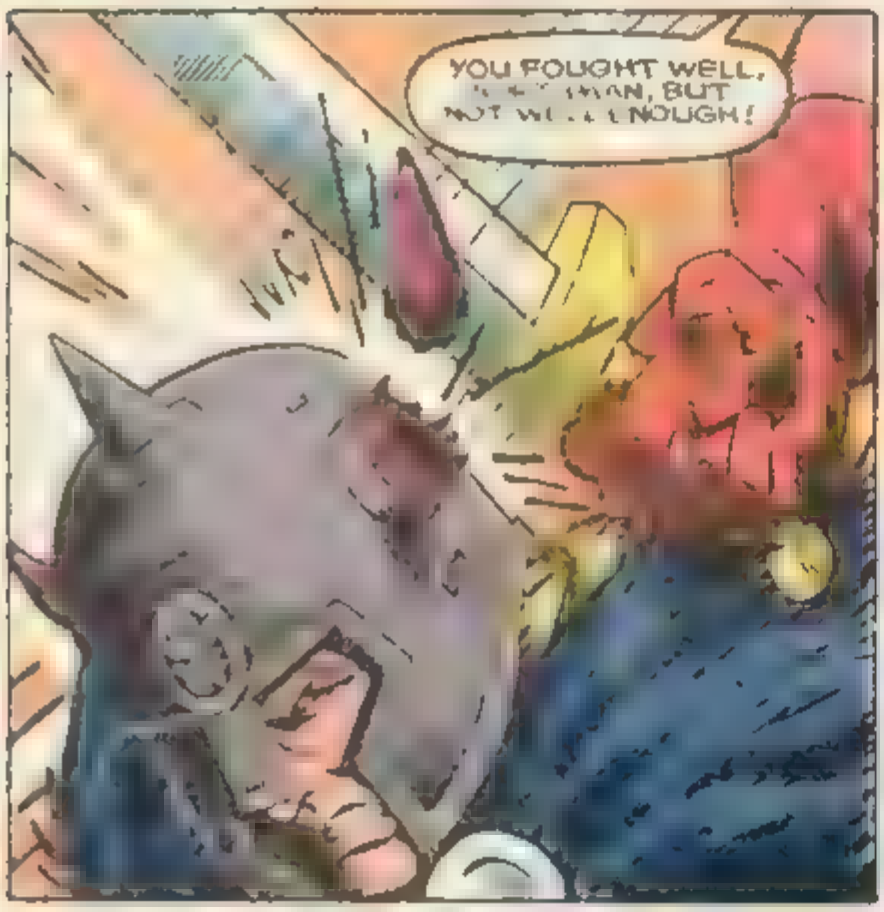
WHERE BLADES FAIL, AN ARROW MAY CURE YOUR BOLDNESS!

CONN--
RAEGUNO!

WHAT IS THE MATTER?
HURRY YOU


ME TO DIE AS WELL AS MY FATHER DID

GRR!


YOU FOUGHT WELL,
MAN, BUT
NOT WELL ENOUGH!

IF WE HAD THE
TIME, WE'D SEE THAT
YOU DIE SLOWLY

TURN AND MEET

AGH!

KING CONAN WILL SEND XANTAUS TO JOIN YOU SOON!

HERE-- YOU WON'T BE ALONE IN ARALLU!

LOOK, CONN IT'S TEKYCK

DOES HE STILL LIVE?

YES BUT ONLY BARELY

YOU KNOW HIM, CONN?

AYE, HE'S THE SON OF AN AESIR CHIEFTAIN THAT OUR FATHER SLEW IN SINGLE COMBAT * HE'S PROUD AND HE'LL HATE YOU FOR BEING CONAN'S DAUGHTER IF HE LIVES

UNLESS I CUT THIS ARROW OUT OF HIM HE'LL BE PROUD AND DEAD

* SEE ISSUE #31.

HAIL, CONAN, KING OF AQUILONIA!

THE [illegible] HAVEN'T PUT [illegible] ANY [illegible] THEY'RE OUTNUMBERED

AT THE ROYAL PALACE

CONAN MY HUSBAND THERE IS SOMETHING YOU MUST SEE

CROM

TWO AQUILONIANS HELD THE DOOR TO BUY US TIME WHILE WE ESCAPED WITH CONN AND HALKATHUS

THEY PAY FOR IT WITH THEIR LIVES WHILE WE GOT AWAY

RAMUS MEN BUT HERE THEMSELVES NOW THEIR BLOOD STAINS THE MARBLE FLOOR

NEXT ISSUE #3

TROCERO, SUMMON THE PALACE WORKMEN AT ONCE I WANT THESE STONES REMOVED NOW

AYE, MY KING.

THE ASURANS SHED THEIR BLOOD HONORABLY, MUST WE REMOVE THESE STONES?

I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING ZENOBIA

NOW WE WILL SUMMON, HADRATHUS AND THE ROYAL ARCHITECTS

THOSE STONES WILL BE MOUNTED ON THE TEMPLE OF ASURA THAT WE WILL BUILD AT ROYAL EXPENSE TO HADRATHUS' SPECIFICATIONS SPARE NO EXPENSE

NO ARGUMENTS-- IT S WHAT YOUR PEOPLE HAVE ALWAYS WANTED YOU NEEDN'T DENY IT.

IT IS WHAT WE HAVE ALWAYS DREAMED OF HAVING, MY KING

WE'LL BUILD IT ABOVE GROUND, MY FRIEND, FOR ALL TO SEE.

THERE-- IF ANYONE PAYS DISRESPECT TO IT, I'LL MOUNT THEIR HEADS ON THE CITY WALL

PRINCE CONN RETURNS TO THE ENCAMPMENT OF KING CONAN'S ARMY OUTSIDE THE WALLS OF TARANTIA

TELL MY FATHER THAT WE HAVE RETURNED WITH THE PRINCESS RADEGUND.

AYE MY PRINCE, WITH PLEASURE.

HERE'S SOMETHING TO MAKE YOUR DAY A LITTLE BRIGHTER MY QUEEN

MOTHER

RADEGUND, I THANK THE GODS FOR YOUR SAFE RETURN

YOU'VE DONE WELL MY SON

THE CREDIT BELONGS TO DERYCK, FATHER.

COME, RADEGUND, HAVE YOU NO WORD FOR YOUR FATHER?

MY THOUGHTS ARE WITH THIS YOUNG WARRIOR.

BEAR HIM GENTLY HE IS GRAVELY WOUNDED.

AYE WOUNDED RESCUING ME.

RADEGUND..

...WE DID ALL WE COULD TO FIND YOU.

"FIND ME"? THIS YOUNG AESIR FOUND ME IF HE HADN'T I WOULD BE A PRISONER IN AKGOB NOW.

CAREFULLY I HIDE IT, MY HEART LIES WITH HIM

SHE LOVES HIM THE SON OF A MAN I SLEW

DERYCK WILL HATE HER WHEN HE LEARNS THAT SHE IS MY DAUGHTER

MY LIEGE, THE CHIEFTAINS ARE ASSEMBLED FOR A COUNCIL OF WAR.

COME, JOIN US RUFIO, YOUR WIT MAY LEAVEN THIS GRIM TALK OF WAR.

AYE, BUT BLAME MINE, YOU INVITED ME, MY KING.

WHEN WE MARCH AT DAWN, I WANT A BATTLE PLAN TO DRIVE OUR ENEMIES FROM OUR BORDERS.

AYE, WE MUST STRIKE BEFORE THEY HAVE TIME TO REUNITE.

TOMORROW I'LL LEAD THE MAIN COLUMN EAST TO DEAL WITH THE NEMEDIANS WHILE GAIUS FLAVIUS ESTABLISHES A PERIMETER TO THE SOUTH

TROCERO, YOU WILL REMAIN IN TARANTIA IN COMMAND OF THE RESERVES READY TO REINFORCE EITHER COLUMN AS NEEDED

THEN WHILE GAIUS FLAVIUS HOLDS THE ARGOSSEANS AND OPHIRIANS AT BAY, WE'LL DRIVE OUT THE NEMEDIANS AND CAPTURE TARASCUS IN THE BARGAIN

DRIVING THE ENEMY FROM AQUILONIA AND RANSOMING TARASCUS ARE NOT ENOUGH -- YOU MUST CRUSH THEM ONCE AND FOR ALL

I ONCE TOLD YOU TO LISTEN TO RUFIO FATHER LISTEN NOW

AYE I REMEMBER ALL TOO WELL.

THE TIME HAS COME TO INVADE NEMEDIA AND DESTROY THEIR CAPABILITY TO MAKE WAR BEFORE THE ARGOSSEANS AND OPHIRIANS CAN REUNITE.

THERE IS WISDOM IN YOUR WORDS MY KING.

HE HAS PROVEN HIMSELF WISE BEYOND HIS YEARS

STRIKE NOW BY YMIR!

OUR ALLIES ARE RIGHT, MY KING

AVE BY CROM

WE DRIVE THE NEMEDIANS FROM HYRKANIA AND CAPTURE TARASCUS AND HOLD HIM FOR RANSOM -- NO MORE

YOU ARE STILL IGNORING THE INEVITABLE THE ONLY ROAD TO PEACE LIES IN CONQUEST

ON, KOGU

THE ONLY WAY TO PRESERVE PEACE IS BY CREATING AN EMPIRE EVERY HYRKANIAN HAS DREAMED OF IT YOU CAN REALIZE THAT DREAM

I THOUGHT YOU BELIEVED ME TO BE A BAD KING, BELIT

AYE BUT YOU'RE A FAIR MAN AND THAT'S BETTER

VICTORY AND EMPIRE! CONQUEST OR DEATH!

NO THIS DREAM IS NOT FOR ME

ZENOBIA, ONCE AGAIN I MUST LEAVE YOU

AYE TAKE YOUR LEAVE BUT WE'LL HAVE NO GOODBYES.

AYE NO GOODBYES

I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER FINISH.

HURRY, FATHER, IT'S ALMOST SUN UP.

COME, RADEGUND, WILL YOU SEE YOUR FATHER OFF?

I'LL SAY FAREWELL TO MY BROTHER

BUT I HAVE NO KIND WORDS FOR YOU

YOU'VE ONLY BROUGHT ME UNHAPPINESS FIRST LEONIDAS DEAD AND NOW PERYCK NEAR DEATH

YOU'RE WRONG, RADEGUND ONE DAY YOU'LL KNOW HOW WRONG

FAREWELL CONN, MAY THE GODS WATCH OVER YOU WHILE YOU FOLLOW HIM

AND MAY THE GODS TAKE BETTER CARE OF YOU THAN SO MANY OTHERS THAT HAVE KNOWN HIM

RADEGUND, THERE IS SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO KNOW.

YOU SPOILED, SELF CENTERED LITTLE BRAT! DO YOU THINK YOUR PROBLEMS ARE GREATER THAN THOSE OF OUR KINGDOM?

REMEMBER NOT ONLY IS HE YOUR FATHER, BUT HE IS THE MAN I LOVE I WILL NOT TOLERATE ANY LACK OF RESPECT FOR HIM.

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN MAY THE GODS MARCH WITH YOU, MY LOVE

WE MARCH TO PURGE OUR LAND OF THIS [illegible] THERE WILL BE NO TURNING BACK FORWARD!

KING XANTAUS, QUEEN
YOU TO COME TO HI

NOW IS GONE!

SO, YOU LOST THE PRINCESS RADEGUND AND ESCAPED MY MEN--ONLY TO BE RECAPTURED

DON'T BE TOO HASTY, XANTAUS. WE MAY YET BE ABLE TO USE HIM

I THOUGHT YOU WERE SO EAGER TO TORTURE HIM TO DEATH, LEORA

I WAS, BUT I'VE HAD TIME TO THINK.

I SHOULD STILL PLAY HIM ALIVE

NOT BEFORE I'VE DELIVERED CONAN'S REAL SON TO YOU.

DELIVER HIM YOU SHALL JUST DON'T FAIL AGAIN IF YOU WANT TO KEEP YOUR SKIN!

KING XANTAUS, THE ZINGARANS HAVE ARRIVED.

THE BARON OF THE BORDER COUNTRY STAND READY TO AID YOU IN YOUR MARCH FOR ACONBURG CONSIDERATION

AYE

YOU MEAN FOR PART OF POITAIN, DON'T YOU EL MULLAH

THEY SHALL HAVE IT IF THEY CAN HELP US DEFEAT CONAN.

IN THE PAST WE HAVE MERELY RAIDED POITAIN AT YOUR BEHEST, NOW WE ARE PREPARED TO JOIN YOU IN DESTROYING CONAN FOREVER

MAKE GOOD ON YOUR BOAST AND YOUR LANDS IN POITAIN SHALL BE YOURS EL MULLAH AND WHILE CONAN IS OCCUPIED WITH THE NEMEDIANS, WE WILL INVADE AQUILONIA AGAIN

THE NEMEDIAN CAMP IN AQUILONIA NEAR THE MOUNTAINS THAT SEPARATE AQUILONIA FROM NEMEDIA

MORE DAYS LIKE THIS AND WE WILL BE DRIVEN BACK TO THE RIVER OR INTO OUR GRAVES.

AYE.

YOUR MATESTY THE COURIER HAS RETURNED FROM KANTAUS AND LEUKA

THEN I HOPE FOR HIS SAKE THAT HE BRINGS GOOD NEWS

WELL WHEN WILL THE ARGOSHEANS AND OPHIANS MARCH TO MY SUPPORT?

YOU YOUR MAJESTY

I FEAR TO TELL YOU THAT THEY HAVE F[illegible] TO HELP

[illegible]

WHAT?!

I'LL HAVE YOUR HEAD FOR THIS

SUMMON MY [illegible] AT ONCE!

PLEASE, YOUR MAJESTY, I BEG YOU TO STAY CALM.

CALM? CALM? WHEN MY TROOPS ARE IN DISARRAY? WELL, WE'LL CURE THAT

I [illegible] EVERY [illegible] TO THE WALL! ON THIS SWORD!

[illegible]

NO, NO, NOW ARE YOU [illegible] A THING TO [illegible] A MAILMAN?

NO, WELL HAVE THE MAN IN TEN THROW [illegible] IN HIS [illegible] THAT'S IT

AND WHAT OF THE AQUILONIAN PRISONERS, MY LIEGE?

THROW THEM TO MY PRECIOUS PET IN THE PIT--ONE AT A TIME!

AND ONE BY ONE, KING TARASCUS WILL BE EXECUTED

AHHHHEEEEEE!

NO NO...

MITRA THE NEMEDIAN SCUM ARE BURNING THE VILLAGE!

SERVIUS GALLUNUS AND THE MOUNTAIN KNIGHTS ADVANCE ON THE AQUILONIAN VILLAGE AND THE NEMED ANENEMY

DEATH TO THE NEMEDIANS!

RUN, YOU DOGS, BUT YOU'LL NEVER HIDE FROM US!

GIVE THEM A TASTE OF YOUR PIKES, GUNDERMEN!

YIELD OR DIE, NEMEDIAN!

YOU HAVE MUCH TO ANSWER FOR, JALNAL

MITRA

MY KING THERE IS SOMETHING YOU MUST SEE IN THAT PIT

LEAD THE WAY, SERVUS

PREPARE YOURSELF FOR SOMETHING MORTAL EYES SHOULD NOT BEHOLD

WE'LL SEE WHAT HAS ROBBED YOU OF YOUR NERVE

CROM!

THERE, MY KING. THAT'S NEMEDIAN MERCY FOR YOU!

WHAT OF THESE NEMEDIAN PRISONERS, MY LIEGE?

SEE THAT THAT THING IN THE PIT DOESN'T GO HUNGRY-- AND THEN *SEE THAT IT EATS NO MORE!*

KING CONAN, WE HAVE THE ENEMY ON THE RUN!

OUR AESIR, CIMMERIAN, AND KUSHITE ALLIES HAVE ENGAGED THE ENEMY AND ARE DRIVING THEM BACK ON THE ROAD OF KINGS TOWARD THE MOUNTAINS

WE MARCH TO JOIN THEM

NOW LET'S RID THE LAND OF NEMEDIANS ONCE AND FOR ALL!

AND WHEN THE [illegible] OF BATTLE HAS PASSED...

CROM, HAVE YOU SUPPED YOUR FILL OF BLOOD FOR ONE MORE DAY?

MY LIEGE, WHAT OF THESE PRISONERS?

THEY'LL HAVE TO ANSWER FOR THEIR CRIMES. BUT I'LL MAKE IT EASY FOR THEM

THEY'LL RECEIVE MORE TENDER MERCY THAN THEY GAVE OUR PEOPLE

MY KING, THE NEMEDIANS HAVE RETREATED WITHOUT LEAVING A REAR GUARD IN THE PASS

SERVIUS, SUMMON THE TRUMPETER

SOUND OFFICERS CALL

LOOK AT THEM, SPOILING FOR A FIGHT. IF WE CROSS THE BORDER AND INVADE NEMEDIA, HOW WILL THEY FEEL IN A FEW MONTHS?
A WAR OF CONQUEST COULD TAKE MANY MONTHS-- OR MANY YEARS.
IT'S NOW OR NEVER, MY KING. WILL YOU GIVE THE WORD?
THAT'S NOT JUST THE ROAD OF KINGS, MY LIEGE. THAT'S THE ROAD TO EMPIRE.
AYE. THE ROAD TO EMPIRE...
WHAT IS YOUR WILL, MY KING?
CONN, TAKE THE CAVALRY FORWARD AND SECURE THE PASS. WE MARCH FOR BELVERUS.
VICTORY AND EMPIRE! CONQUEST OR DEATH!

I WONDER IF I WILL LIVE TO SEE THE OUTCOME OF THIS DAY'S DECISION, RUFIO?

THAT IS SOMETHING NO MORTAL IS MEANT TO KNOW.

AYE, BUT WE'RE DESTINED TO LIVE BY OUR CHOICES--- OR DIE BY THEM.

LET'S GO FORWARD, RUFIO, THERE'S NO LOOKING BACK AFTER TODAY.

AYE, MY KING, AYE...

CONTINUES IN ISSUE #36, THE ROAD TO EMPIRE

KING CONAN

℅ MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

LARRY HAMA
EDITOR
PAT REDDING
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Fellow Barbarians,

What is there to say? I love this comic!

I'll even give you reasons why! First of all, there's lots of action! I almost can't keep up with it all. It's great! When I pick up a copy of CONAN THE KING, I know I won't put it down.

Secondly, the artwork is fabulous!

You can be sure my subscription is on the way! Keep up the good work!

Jennifer Starlon
314 West Honell Circle
South Bend, Indiana

Dear CONAN THE KINGers,

Issue #31—
What a fantastic plot!
What wonderful artwork!
What a nifty cover!
What else can I say?

Linnea Kaffrey
654 Quigley Terrace
Atlanta, GA 30324

Dear KING CONAN,

I really enjoyed CONAN THE KING #31. Crassus is a great bad guy! I can't wait to see him get caught. Conn is wonderful—brave, strong, handsome and smart. We could use more guys like him in the real world! He's also very much like his father. Well, that's all for now. Keep up the good work!

Michele Adams
Norfolk, VA

Dear Marvel,

I just finished reading CONAN THE KING #31. I loved it! The artwork was superb and the writing was terrific! After I read my first issue (#28), I didn't think there would be any better. Issues #29, 30 and 31 proved me wrong! Oh, yeah, could you make CONAN THE KING a monthly? Please?

Andy Simpson
(no address given)

Dear KING CONAN,

I've been an avid CONAN reader since I was fourteen years old; now, ten years later, I still get just as much enjoyment out of CONAN THE KING.

After all this time, this is the first time I felt I had to write to you. I just finished reading CONAN THE KING #31. Words will not convey how great this was. It was definitely one of the best issues ever.

With the way your stories have been, I'll still be reading all the Conan titles on my deathbed. Keep up the marvelous work.

Mark A. Gold
1629 W. 18th St.
Marlborough, ND

Dear Folks,

Issue #31 was good, except for the fight scene between Rolf and Conan. It was a totally unnecessary scene, and it detracted from the rest of the story. The one-page fight Conn had with the horsemen fit in alright, I suppose. It's ok to do an issue of CONAN THE KING without *any* fight scenes once in awhile, guys; this would have been the perfect story for it. It was still a decent story, though.

David Thompson
Dallas, TX

Dear Conan writers,

Let me get right to the point. I'm really getting tired of all these wonderful plots, the fantastic lettering, and the amazing covers. Come on, guys, make one mistake, just for me? Please?

James Walsh
6509 Laurel Dr.
Baltimore, MD

Dear Marvel,

Issue #31 was interesting in that you obviously did some background work on soothsayers, "witches" and the like from the time period you are basically working in. The reading of the runes cast in freshly spilled blood was done almost perfectly. The only thing that would have made it better would have been to increase the amount of hoopla and fanfare the old woman used before casting the runes, or before reading them. After all, they had to look impressive or their townspeople wouldn't believe them. All in all, though, a very good job!

Jeff Grudinsky
3724 Church St.
Glenview, IL 60025

Dear Larry,

CTK #31, Force of Arms, was a perfect example of what makes this title so outstanding.

CONAN THE KING has had a long history of talented creators, and the present team is no exception. Don Kraar more than does justice to the previous work by such "big name" scribes as Roy Thomas and Alan Zelenetz, and Mike Docherty is a terrific penciller, despite the tough act he had to follow after the departure of Mark Silvestri, and Geof Isherwood's inks are splendid, as usual.

The storyline continues to always be thoroughly absorbing and entertaining, with just the right balance of court intrigue and all-out battle action.

I commend you on the remarkable job you've done keeping all the Conan titles consistent, yet distinctive, most notably in CONAN THE KING. No easy task that, I'm sure.

Keep up the excellent work; you can be sure I'll be handing over my $1.25 every other month for the forseeable future.

Gordon Post
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear crew,

CONAN THE KING #31 is the best comic I have ever read. It's even in my top ten! Conan is heading home, and boy, won't that be interesting!

Conan needs more challenges, and the fight to regain his kingdom may be it! The artwork is great, too. I will definitely renew my subscription. Keep it up!

Rick Boukas
Silver Springs, MD